(b) A Vulnerability Atlas of India has been brought out and circulated for necessary action by the State Government. Guidelines have also been developed for disaster resistant constructions. These would be helpful in construction of building in future and make the buildings safer.

(c) The guidelines for construction as per structural safety norms have already been circulated and reiterated. The States have been reminded. This Ministry is convening a meeting of all State Ministers on 14/3/2001, to review and expedite action in this regard.

Assessment of Housing shortage in the country

1144. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to stale:

(a) whether Govemment have assessed the housing shortage in urban areas of the country particularly that of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to boost the housing sector, particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) (a) and (b) As per the projections of the National Buildings Organisation / Working Group on Urban Housing for the 9th Plan based on 1991 census data, the housing shortage for all India (Urban) and in the urban areas of Andhra Pradesh is estimated as 6.64 Million and 0.89 Million respectively for the year 2001.

(c) Housing is a State subject and it is primarily the responsibility of Slate Government to provide, housing to people particularly those belonging to the EWS / LIG categories. The Central Government has been providing policy guidelines and taking various initiatives to promote housing activity in both urban and rural areas. The National Housing and Habitat Policy-1998 has prescribed the role of the Central Government as that of a facilitator and enabler. Accordingly, the Central Government has taken various initiatives to accelerate the pace of housing in the urban areas. These include:—

     I. Fiscal incentives in the form of Income Tax and other concessions and access to funds through equity support to HUDCO.

    II. By advocating a legal regime conductive to vigorous housing and construction activity.

III. By transfer of appropriate and cost-effective technology to beneficiaries.

IV. By encouraging greater public-private partnership and cooperative housing.

These apply to Andhra Pradesh too.

Every year Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO) fixes annual loan sanction target for housing schemes, which is allocated amongst all the States /Union Territories based on areas, population, demand and other State/agency performance factors. 55% of annual allocation is reserved for EWS/LIG categories, out of which at least 15% is kept for EWS category in rural areas and 10% for EWS category in Urban areas.

Based on area/population and demand received from the States, the allocation made for Andhra Pradesh for the year 2000-2001 is Rs. 184.32 crores.

During the current year, HUDCO has also sanctioned Rs. 19 16 crore for 530 individuals under HUDCO Niwas in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

In addition to above, under the 2 Million Housing Programme of Government started in 1998-99, HUDCO has been entrusted for providing loan assistance for construction of 6 lakh houses in rural areas and 4 lakh houses in urban areas. In the State of Andhra Pradesh, HUDCO is providing loan assistance for construction for 29388 units in urban areas per year. Against this target, the units sanctioned during the last three years is given below:-

Year	Targetted Units	Sanctioned Units
1998-1999	29388	33063
1999-2000	29388	34316
2000-2001	29388	24298
(As on 31.1.2001)		

Central Fund for Safer Houses in Cyclone-Prone Areas of Andhra Pradesh

1145. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central funds were released to Andhra Pradesh for providing safer houses in cyclone-prone areas of the State by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise;